

ALA at USC

NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS

1

**HOLIDAY LETTER BY
PRESIDENT-ELECT
THALIA KING!**

2

**'TIS HOT COCOA AND
BOOK SEASON**

3

FAREWELL GRADUATES

4

15 GIFT IDEAS

5

**HISTORY OF THE
POINSETTIA**



We finally made it!

What a year it has been. Seriously, be proud of yourselves for making it through it all, being there for your family, your friends, your kids and still finishing this semester. To end the year, we have a fun newsletter for you. Check out our fun features on gift ideas, movies to watch over the break, and a little history on Poinsettias. Also, congrats again to Diana Rosas who was our Student of the Month and gets a nice feature in this newsletter. Since it's our last semester and newsletter, Nick and I wrote our farewells, so make sure to check those out too 😊. We also have a special feature on "Kwanzukkahmas" and a special Holiday letter from the new ALA at USC President, Thalia King. Hope you all enjoy! From ALA at USC, we wish you all happy holidays and Happy Kwanzukkahmas!! Have fun and get rest on the long break coming up, guys! Hope to see you all for our last Open House of the semester and year.

FIGHT ON!

**-Eileen Urrutia
ALA at USC President**

SAVE THE DATE

- **END OF FALL 2020 12/15**
- **MURDER MYSTERY
OPEN HOUSE 12/18**

Season's Greetings Trojans!

Christmas is the time of year that either brings joy or sorrow. Joy to see our loved ones share their successes and sorrow for those no longer with us. This year, the holidays will look and feel differently from past years. The Yuletide joy may be absent of bear hugs and potlucks, but it can still retain a glimmer of hope for next year. Let us glance at the sorrow then focus on the joy! Easier said than done? Me too. Let us use an exercise to help get us over the pile of face masks by the door.

While I was attending a webinar, *Navigating an Ocean of Uncertainty*, hosted by Society of American Archivist, I took the time to tune in to Jamie Lin, a librarian and educator in San Diego. She asked participants to consider all the bizarre stressors and restrictions they experienced throughout 2020. She then proposed a revolutionary question. If you were to improve your situation by one-point, what would that look like?

Really, tangibly, what would need to change in your life? What changes could you make to create enough joy that you would perceive the quality of your life improved by a full point? Think about it, be selfish, think beyond the obvious. As you consider the possibilities, also consider what you are hopeful for this year? Take another step towards introspection by considering, how have you changed this year? Did you gain new insight from the statistics class or asserted healthy boundaries in a toxic relationship? While this year is not at all what anyone planned for, as LIS students we are called to think critically about our situation. We seek to collaborate with one another in order to develop and implement new ways to serve in our communities. Sheltering in place may have given us the impression our community has gotten smaller, but on the contrary, our community is global. Librarians influence learning and creativity in every state and in every nation. As we prepare for Eileen and Nick's graduation this December, we wish them well! We will miss their smiling faces and clever ideas. We send them off with the full strength and support of the Trojan Spirit! Happy Holidays, my dear friends and classmates!

THALIA KING

ON BEHALF OF
ALA AT USC

* Merry *
* Kwanzukkahmas! *



Share with us what how you celebrate
the holidays on social media!

#HolidaysALAatUSC



And November's Student of the Month is...

DIANA ROSAS

"Diana is such a hard worker and a dependable one at that. She takes initiative and is a team player. She has been so helpful at getting things done and is so easygoing. I am so happy to have Diana on my team."

Diana Rosas is a first-semester student who is interested in "outreach, community partnerships, tribal/rural libraries and archives/museums". She was nominated as November's Student of the Month because she is seen by her peers as a hard worker and someone dependable with a great work ethic. The person who inspires her is her husband. "He keeps me grounded, is humble, kind, confident and has the best sense of humor."

Her favorite class so far is LIM 535, Library Information Sources and Services, with Dr. Renee Di Pilato. When asked who her favorite professor was, Diana said "They are all great, but I would have to say it has to be Dr. Renee Di Pilato. She has such a pleasant disposition, helpful and down to earth." Diana is looking forward to "Learning more about marketing and accounting, it's not my strength so I'm looking forward to the challenge." From the MMLIS program, she hopes to learn more about "Archives, Collection Development/Management and leadership." Once she completed the program, Diana plans on going on a road trip!

Diana's goal is to "accomplish completing this program and begin the process of pursuing my doctoral degree." The best environment for her to study is in her backyard. "I love being outside in my backyard patio!" A fun fact she shared with us is "When I was in 5th grade I was featured in a PBS show because our class was learning Latin. I had a small part interacting with the teacher." Her advice to fellow MMLIS students is to "Ask questions, stay organized and plan ahead. Most of all, don't forget to find joy in your classes and have fun!"

-By Carla Hernandez



Q & A with Diana

What's your favorite book?

Travels with Charley - Steinbeck

If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Japan. Both of my sons studied the language in high school and their teacher was amazing. I appreciated what they learned about Japanese culture and it seems like an exciting place to visit.

What song on your playlist do you replay the most?

It's a tie between The Adults Are Talking - The Strokes & Kill Them With Kindness - IDLES

What is the last thing you read for fun?

Toni Morrison's The Source of Self-Regard - Selected Essays, Speeches and Meditations

What is your favorite thing about fall/autumn?

The weather, the changing colors of the leaves, wearing sweaters and it's my "birthday" season so I always look forward to it.

What is your favorite restaurant or eatery?

Bishamon Restaurant & Sushi Bar

What shows are you watching/streaming now?

Season 4 of The Crown - but was disappointed & The Mandalorian - still not sure how I feel about this one.

What is your dream internship?

New York Public Library

15 Fun Gift Ideas

The holidays can be a stressful time worrying about finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list. Here are some gift ideas, so you don't stress anymore and focus on enjoying your winter break.



1) Books and Bookmarks



2) Soy Candles



3) Face Masks



4) Snacks



5) USC Gear



6) Blankets



7) Custom Ornaments



8) PJ's



9) Coffee/Tea Packs



10) Hand Sanitizer



11) Gift Card



12) Socks



13) Board Games



14) Mugs, Tumblers, Wine Tumbler, Flasks



15) Planner

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE, MMLIS CLASS OF FALL 2020!



MAD LIBS[™] COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

We've gathered here today to celebrate the Class of _____, a _____ group of _____ students hailing
YEAR ADJECTIVE NUMBER

from _____ states and _____ countries to
NO. BELOW 51 NO. BELOW 196

create a _____ community like nowhere else. Since
ADJECTIVE

_____ founded the school in _____, it's produced
HISTORICAL FIGURE YEAR

students like _____ and _____,
RANDOM NAME BELOVED CELEBRITY

people who understand what our motto means when it tells
 us to "_____ the _____." We
VERB NOUN ADJECTIVE

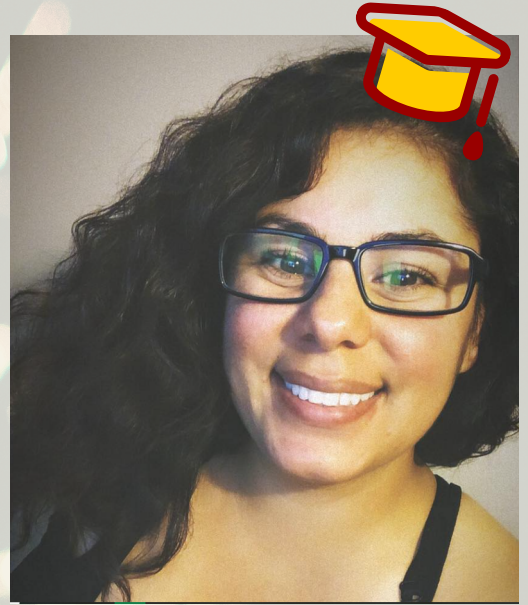
know you will do the same, because even if you go on to be
 a _____ or _____, you all share one
OCCUPATION OCCUPATION

thing in common: a _____ from this fine institution.
NOUN

...and now a farewell from our
ALA at USC President and Member Liaison.

Eileen Urrutia

ALA AT USC PRESIDENT 2020
COHORT XIX



WOW. I remember when I attended the New Student Orientation and one of the alumni said, "Enjoy the ride because the program is going to fly by." I remember thinking, whew, I'm barely starting, that feels so far away. And yet, here I am.

I started off this program with imposter syndrome, not really believing I had been accepted, I did not think I was qualified. My anxiety was on high, just dreading the email or call that they made a mistake and I wasn't really accepted. Lol. As I finished every semester, I was shocked at how much I endured and what I had accomplished. After ending every semester, I felt grateful and proud that I finished! But it was challenging. I will never forget spending those late nights working on statistics homework. Or working on team projects. Or watching 2020 unfold on the news and social media. I struggled. How could I focus on schoolwork when the world feels like it's falling apart right outside my window? It was rough.

And yet, here I am. I am not sure how I got through certain days or nights. Despite the challenges and the roller coaster ride that is 2020, I am grateful for the experience. I not only take away my new knowledge and skills, but I also take away the memories with ALASC and my fellow students and classmates! You all helped me survive this crazy year. I am so glad to have met all of you, you have no idea how much seeing your smiles and laughing with you guys has meant to me and my mental health. Thank you :)

Thank you to my fellow classmates for the fun (and some boring) live sessions, the Google Chats, the Zoom calls and vent sessions, the never-ending discussion posts, and the presentations we all did and critiqued on each other. You have all made me a better person because you challenged me to work hard!

Thank you to Alexis and Lourdes, seriously, for being there for all of us, you are the real MVPs. And thank you to ALASC! You are all amazing, thank you for being a great team and being good sports about everything! Thank you for all participating in the meetings and taking the extra time outside of schoolwork to work on our projects and events. Thank you for being so dedicated. I am so happy to be leaving ALASC in great hands. You made my job easy and made it so much fun.

So I guess it is true, good things always come to an end. I wish everyone well! As always, I am sending you all great vibes. I know the program can have its tough days, but trust me, YOU CAN DO IT. I know you can. Please keep in touch. :) Keep me updated on where you go and what you do after the program. Stay up and FIGHT ON!

Nick Casarez

ALA at USC Member Liaison 2020 COHORT XIX

I was asked to write a farewell message... something beyond "So long, and thanks for all the fish." Truth is, I've never been very good at saying goodbye, so I won't. Instead, I will say thank you. Thank you, to all of those whom I was lucky enough to meet and work with. And, for those who have no idea who I am- Hi, my name is Nicholas Casarez, and I have been fortunate enough to be a part of the ALA-Student Chapter for much of this year as the Student Liaison.



A quick back story: I was recommended to take this position by Eileen Urrutia, President of the ALA-Student Chapter. She sold me on it by telling me it's a great way to network and get to know the other students. How is this the selling point? Well, I don't "network." I don't meet people. I don't step out of my comfort zone. For me, meeting people is even harder than saying goodbye; so, I typically avoid it. But after this experience, after learning what I have learned, thank you, Eileen, for pulling me out of my comfort zone. Had it not been for you and your encouragement I would not have been so fortunate to have met so many students outside of my cohort and classes. This includes meeting and working with all of the amazing ALA-SC members. To ALA-SC, you have all been wonderful to meet, work with, and get to know as friends. Thank you, to all of you.

To the professors of this program, a simple thank you is not enough. You have all fostered and continued to provide the sense of togetherness through encouragement and support that is the USC family. For this, 1000x thank you.

As far as other students within the program, I want to leave saying something to all of you. Something that I wish I was told when I began this program, especially to those who have just wrapped up their first semester: You belong here. You are smart enough. You are good enough. And USC DID NOT make a mistake in accepting you. You can and will make it through this.

PAUSE. Re-read that.

Do not forget it or think otherwise.

I cannot tell you how difficult this was for me to realize this. And, if you are curious, I didn't accept that until a few weeks ago, when I realized, I have made it this far, from 2019 through 2020. And, by Crom! 2020 has NOT been kind, to any of us. So, for those of you who are just beginning, you have made a wonderful decision in coming to USC and being a part of the Trojan Family. And for those of you still in the mix or almost done, You Got This! Fight on! And, thanks for the fish.

~NEEK!

Congrats, grad.

NETFLIX

- White Christmas (1954)
(Comedy/Musical Romance)
- Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey
(Family)
- Holiday Home Makeover with Mr. Christmas
(Reality-TV)
- Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square
(Musical Christmas Drama)
- The Christmas Chronicles - 1 & 2
(Adventure/Comedy/Family/Fantasy)
- Klaus
(Animated/Family)
- Dr. Seuss's The Grinch (2018)
(Animated/Family/Comedy)
- How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)
(Family/Comedy)
*also on Hulu

hulu

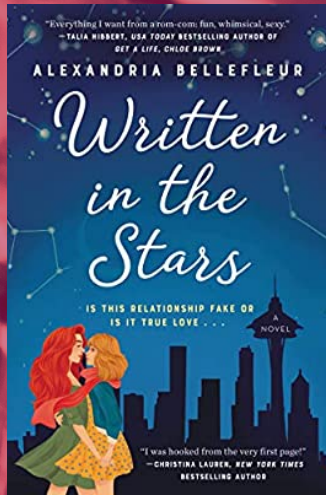
- A Christmas Carol (2019)
(TV Series)
- Holidate
(Romance)
*also on Netflix
- Happiest Season
(Comedy/Romance)
- Girlfriends of Christmas Past
(Comedy/Romance)
- Once Upon A Time At Christmas
(Horror/Holiday)
- The Man Who Invented Christmas
(Drama/Holiday)
- The Dog Who Saved Christmas
(Family/Comedy)
- Curious George: A Very Monkey Christmas
(Animated/Family/Kids)

Disney+

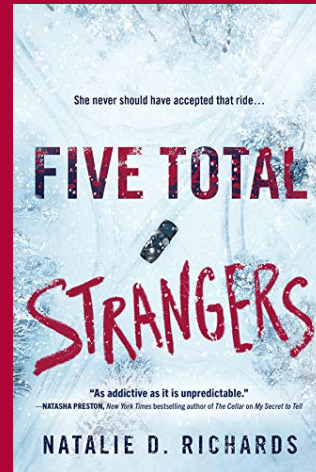
- The Santa Clause - 1, 2, & 3
(Family/Comedy)
- Mickey's Christmas Carol
(Animated/Family)
- The Muppet Christmas Carol
(Family/Comedy)
- The Nightmare Before Christmas
(Animated/Family)
- Lego Star Wars: Holiday Special
(Animated/Family)
- Noelle
(Family/Comedy/Fantasy)
- Home Alone - 1 & 2
(Family/Comedy)
- The Mighty Ducks - 1 & 2
(Family/Comedy)

**WHAT TO
(RE)WATCH
THIS Holiday?**

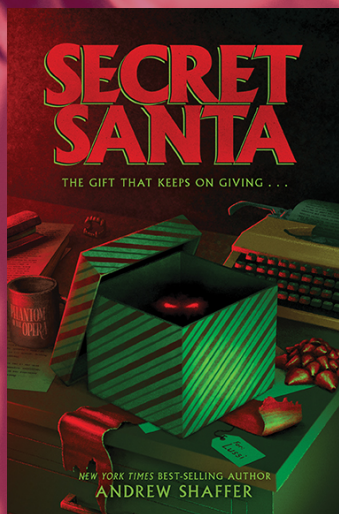
'Tis Hot Cocoa and



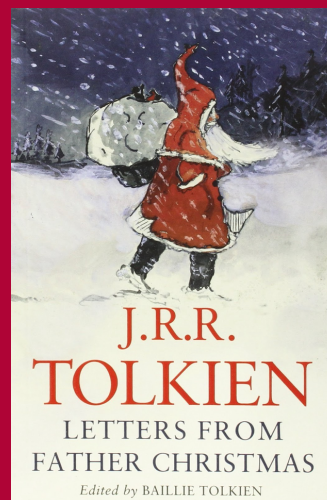
With nods to *Bridget Jones* and *Pride and Prejudice*, a charming #ownvoices queer rom-com debut about a free-spirited social media astrologer who agrees to fake a relationship with an uptight actuary until New Year's Eve—with results not even the stars could predict



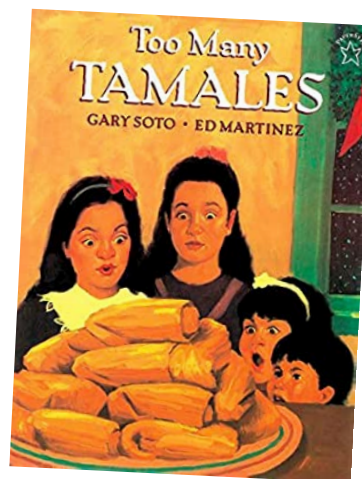
A hitched ride home in a snow storm turns sinister when one of the passengers is plotting for the ride to end in disaster.



The *Office* meets Stephen King, dressed up in holiday tinsel, in this fun, festive, and frightening horror-comedy set during the horror publishing boom of the '80s, by New York Times best-selling satirist Andrew Shaffer.

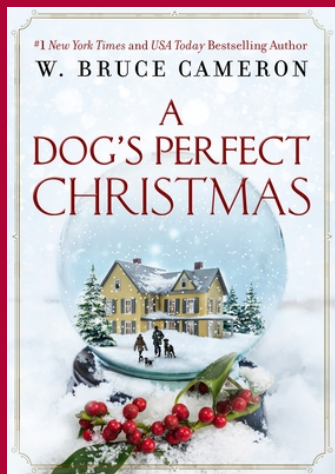


Can you imagine writing to Father Christmas and actually getting a reply? For more than twenty years, the children of J.R.R. Tolkien received letters from the North Pole - from Father Christmas himself!

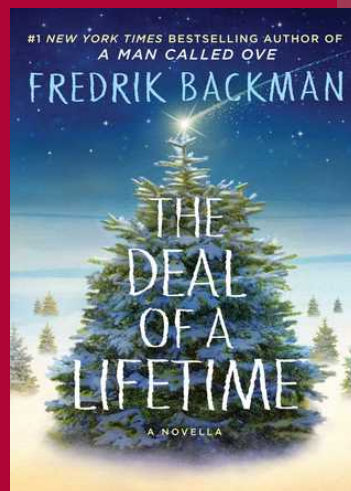


And for

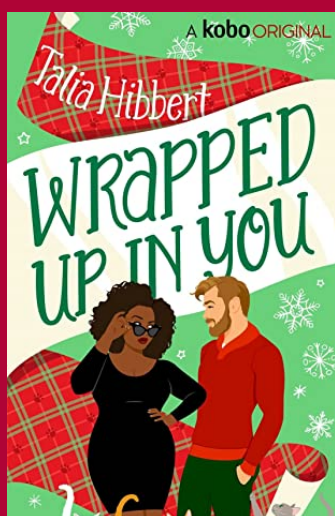
nd Book Season



The perfect, feel-good holiday gift from W. Bruce Cameron, the #1 New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of the A Dog's Purpose series



With humor and compassion, Fredrik Backman's *The Deal of a Lifetime* reminds us that life is a fleeting gift, and our legacy rests in how we share that gift with others.



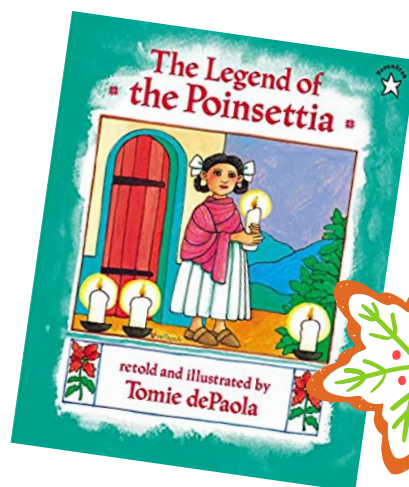
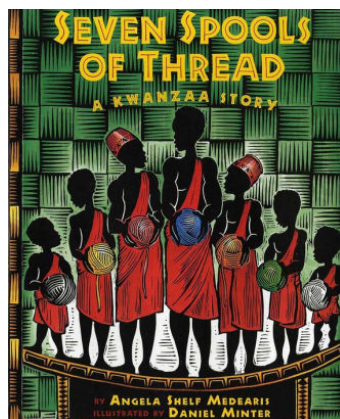
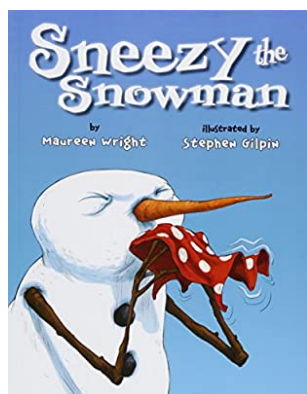
Convincing clever, frosty Abbie to give Will a chance will take more than mistletoe, but hiding his lifelong crush on her is no longer an option.



Thanks to three of today's bestselling teen authors—John Green, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle—the magic of the holidays shines on these hilarious and charming interconnected tales of love, romance, and breathtaking kisses.

More Reads? : https://www.goodreads.com/genres/new_releases/holiday

the kids...



WHODUNIT?



MURDER MYSTERY AT THE SNOWY VICTORIAN MANOR

DECEMBER 18, 2020

6:30 PM TROJAN TIME

Bring your own cocktail and join us for our last virtual
Open House of the year and solve the murder mystery!

<https://zoom.us/j/4240434236>



HISTORY OF THE POINSETTIAS

By Eileen Urrutia

Poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) are native to Central America. The flowers originated in a Southern Mexican town called Taxco de Alarcon. It is said that the Aztecs would decorate with poinsettias but would also use it for practical purposes. The Aztecs were able to extract a purplish dye from the plant to use in textiles and cosmetics. They were also able to extract a milky white sap called Latex which was used to treat fevers.

The Poinsettia made its way to the United States when Joel Roberts Pointsett, the first United States Ambassador to Mexico, caught sight of the plant in 1828. Pointsett maintained hothouses on his South Carolina plantations and immediately sent some plants back when he saw them. Back in the United States, the plants were propagated and later sold under its botanical name *Euphorbia Pulcherrima*, but it became popular by its given name, Poinsettias. Congress honored Joel Pointsett by declaring December 12th as National Poinsettia Day to commemorate his death in 1851.

The Poinsettia was also popular from the Legend of Pepita. As the legend goes, Pepita, a poor girl in Mexico, did not have a gift to give the Child Christ at the Christmas Eve services. As she was walking to the church with her cousin, Pedro, she felt a great amount of sadness. Pedro consoled her saying, "I am sure, Pepita, that even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in his eyes."

Pepita picked up a handful of weeds from the side of the road and arranged them into a small bouquet. She felt sad and embarrassed that it was all she had to give. When she arrived at church, she placed the bouquet at the altar and suddenly the bouquet of weeds turned into a bouquet of beautiful red flowers. Everyone felt they had seen a Christmas miracle. Since then, Poinsettias have been known as the "Flores de Noche Buena" or Flowers of the Holy Night, because they bloom during the Christmas season.



National Poinsettia Day -
December 12th... The Legend
and History of The Poinsettia
phoenixflowershops.com



ALA at USC

Board Members

President - Eileen Urrutia

Vice-President - Jasmine Orellana

Secretary - Thalia King

Treasurer - Carla Hernandez

Member Liaison - Nick Casarez

New Media Liaison - Angelica Mejia

LET US KNOW!

Suggestions for our next Newsletter?

Email us at mmlisalasc@marshall.usc.edu

